



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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Dec 3, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Michael Burt

Bloomfield Hills Man Goes to Jail for Tax Evasion

Michael Burt, 58 of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan was sentenced today to 27 months' in prison followed by 2 years of supervised release, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced. U.S. District Court Judge John Corbett O'Meara also ordered Burt to pay a fine of \$6,000 and to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in filing his tax returns.

This sentence was imposed as the result of Burt being found guilty in May 2008, by a federal jury in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on four counts of income tax evasion.

Acting U.S. Attorney Berg was joined in the announcement by IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Maurice Aouate.

According to court records, Burt was employed by Corporate Tax Services of Troy, Michigan. As a consultant, Burt appraised state personal property taxes, among other responsibilities. During 1998 through 2001, Burt received over \$259,000 in taxable income, with taxes due and owing of over \$94,000. In 2001, Burt filed a fraudulent 1998 tax return with the Internal Revenue Service stating that he had no taxable income and no tax due and owing. He also attempted to conceal his income from the IRS by establishing and utilizing a system of

trusts, and a foreign bank account in the Turks and Caicos Islands, while failing to file his 1999 through 2001 returns.

United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "Although our system depends on the voluntary compliance of citizens, no one is exempt from paying taxes or following federal tax laws."

"The law is crystal clear; people must file returns and pay their taxes," said Aouate. "IRS Criminal Investigation will vigorously investigate those individuals who knowingly and willfully evade their tax obligations."

The case was investigated by special agents of the IRS. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard L. Delonis.